

A dynamic splash of blue water with various shades of blue and white droplets, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The splash is centered horizontally and occupies the upper half of the page.

ROMANS

Welcome to the book of Romans!

To begin your study of the book of Romans, meditate on the book's contents reflected in the overview chart below. Use these as guideposts to unlock the message of the book. The key verses that we have chosen are found in 1:16,17 and focus upon the Living Faith message of Romans. Paul is explaining the "whole counsel" of God concerning the salvation of men. He answers the spiritual question, "If God's love for us is so incredibly gracious, then how should we live in response to that love?" This is amplified by Paul's insights in 12:1,2. Chapters 1-11 explain the mercies of God. Chapters 12-16 instruct us in our response to His great kindness, and what

ROMANS		Living Faith	
OUR NEED FOR FAITH	WALKING BY FAITH	ISRAEL'S FAITH	ONE ANOTHER
1:18-23	5:6-8	9:19-24; 11:25	12:1-2
1-2	3-8	9-11	12-16

"The Just shall live by faith." 1:16,17

Open Your Heart as You Read!

The Lord God is the Author and Perfector of our faith! If God is for us whom should we fear (8:31-39)? God is the Sovereign King over our lives.

Do you reflect the faith of Paul concerning the work of faith that has been accomplished in your heart? The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to draw back in awe as he contemplated the mercy of His Creator, and His great gift of faith that He has given to the world (11:33-36).

Acts amplifies the message of the Gospel through the movement of the Holy Spirit through building the early church. *Romans* reveals how the Gospel of righteousness sweeps the hearts of men. See how many insights into God's grace you can glean from this book!

AUTHOR OF ROMANS

Paul, based on statements in 1:1,5.

DATE

This letter was written by Paul on his third missionary journey, probably from Corinth or another Greek city around 53 - 58 A.D.

OTHER BACKGROUND

It has been said regarding this book in relation to the rest of Scripture: "All roads lead to Romans." Where the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) give the facts about Christ's earthly life and death, Romans explains the meaning of it all. As such, it has been called the "Gospel according to Paul." It is good news for guilty men!

In this letter Paul sets forth some of the central doctrines of the Christian faith: justification by faith, life in the Spirit, unity in the body, and God's redemptive plan for Jew and Gentile. In Romans we are made right before God, forgiven, set free, and set apart. Key words in the book include righteousness, faith, sin, and all. Each is used more than 60 times.

The theme of the book centers around the subject of the righteousness of Christ. The first part deals with the sin problem; the second with the Jewish problem; the third with the life problem. "Righteousness," as used in 1:17 and elsewhere in the book, is that which vindicates what is acceptable to God and brings ultimate victory of right over wrong. God's righteousness IS His salvation. Isaiah 51:8b states, "But my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation to all generations." In the book of Romans, God's righteousness certainly is revealed to all generations (to every one who believes) and to all nationalities (to the Jew first and also to the Greek).

Why study the book of Romans....

1. To be established in the basic teachings of the Christian faith concerning salvation.
2. To better understand the righteous (right) character of God's sovereignty over creation and man's responsibility to our Creator.
3. To increase our understanding and confidence in the extent of the power of God.

Questions	Chapter	Title	Verse
What is Paul's desire for the recipients of this letter? Who are they and what do we learn about them?	1		
Why is judging one another even an issue? How does that contrast with the world being without excuse and already being judged?	2		
Why is it important that there be no distinction between Jew and Greek?	3		
What is the relationship of the Law to the Gospel?	4		
How many results of justification can you list from this chapter?	5		
What does Paul mean by "dying to sin"?	6		
What were the earlier purposes of the Law in relationship to the Gospel?	7		
What is meant by the groanings in this chapter?	8		
What hard issues do you feel are raised here?	9		
Why did the Jews reject God's righteousness?	10		
What do the phrases "show mercy to all" and "all Israel will be saved" mean?	11		
Define the concept of worship from this chapter.	12		
Explain what you feel it means to "put on" Christ.	13		
What is supposed to govern and accompany our conduct?	14		
What forms the basis for our acceptance of one another?	15		
How would you define the "obedience of the faith?" What purpose would Paul have had in mentioning so many people?	16		

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

The book of Romans is God's complete teaching on the subject of salvation. The mysteries of God have been revealed to and through the Church. God has given us a full knowledge of His mercies and has provided all that we need to present ourselves as living sacrifices to the One who has been so merciful to us!

FOURTH
STREAM
 FINDING HOPE

THEOLOGY BLOCKS OF ROMANS

There are several sections of the book of Romans that provide the bridgework that forms the basis of a theological understanding of Paul's view of salvation as taught in the Old and New Testaments. We have listed each section and ask that you title each section from a theological perspective, following Paul's argument as the topic unfolds.

Section The Teaching regarding salvation:

1:1-17	
1:18-32	
2:1-29	
3:1-5:21	
6:1-23	
7:1-25	
8:1-39	
9:1-11:36	
12:1-16:27	
	12
	13
	14
	15
	16

QUESTIONS FROM ROMANS

There are many questions that Paul poses in Romans. Here we outline the major questions to help us follow the unfolding argument of Paul's letter to the Romans. If you take the time to note these questions in your bible and then answer them from the appropriate verses, you will find it helpful in following the Holy Spirit's explanation of salvation by faith (as well as a deeper understanding of the message of Romans)!

2:3 **Do you suppose you will escape God's wrath** (judgment)?

3:1 What advantage has the Jew?

3:9 Are we (Gentiles) better than they (Jews)?

3:27 **Where does boasting come in?**

3:31 Is the Law nullified through faith?

4:1 **How did Abraham find God?**

6:1 Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

6:15 Shall we sin because we are not under Law but grace?

7:7 Is the Law sin?

7:13 Did that which is good (Law) become a cause of death for us?

7:24 **Who will set us free from the body of this death?**

8:31 **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

9:14 There is no injustice with God is there?

9:19 Why does He still find fault?

10:18 Surely they have never heard!?

11:1 God has not rejected His people, has He?

14:10 **Why do you judge your brother?**

The true Jew is not Jewish and not Gentile. He or she is “a new man,” old things have passed away - all things have become new. Simply a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Everything written in the Law is profitable for doctrine, teaching, and training in righteousness. The whole “new testament” is built upon the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, but to **fulfill** it (Matthew 5:17). In fact, He IS the Living “Torah” or Law (John 1:1,14). There is only ONE testament. There is only One Living God.

This fulfillment of the Law begins with **His perfect sacrifice**. By believing in the sacrifice of Jesus, the need for the Aaronic priesthood and the blood of bulls and goats is no longer required (Hebrews 10:4). The “better covenant” is so-termed because it fulfills the requirements of the Law in Messiah (Hebrews 8:6). *This in no way means that we cannot learn from understanding what the Law says about sacrifice. It does mean that the requirement of the Law is satisfied with regard to sacrifice.* This is the central teaching of Hebrews. Jesus’ covenant is better than angels, better than Moses, better than Aaron. He created the angels, fulfilled Moses’ (Yahweh’s) requirement for blood, and became our perfect High Priest - taking away the need for the Aaronic priesthood to offer the blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 7:27).

Like the need for **sacrifice** being fulfilled in Christ, the need for circumcision has also been met through faith. A circumcised heart is the mark of a true Jew (Romans 2:29), and to make a converted Gentile live like a Jew would be as faulty as trying to make a Jew to live like a Gentile. The promises and purposes belong to the Jews, and we have been “grafted in” to their story through faith. This is why Paul goes to such pains to explain the “law of faith” in Galatians (Romans 3:27), contrasting the bondwoman with the free woman. But Jew and Gentile alike find their home in the **One New Man**. True Jews, circumcised in heart and guided in conscience by the Spirit of the Living God (Hebrews 9:14).

Because physical **circumcision** was the sign of the covenant for the Jews, but heart circumcision for true Jews. The Law’ required sacrifices were completed in Christ and the 613 Laws of the Torah continue to explain righteousness (Matthew 5:18; Romans 7:18; 1 Timothy 1:8). But the substance belongs to Christ. The Hebrew “copies” find their fullness in the One who is the Great High Priest - Yeshua, Son of God. This in no way means the Tabernacle and the Temple and everything in them are not “profitable for doctrine.” It does, however, mean that the goal is to make all children of faith, Jew and Gentile, into “true Jews.”

According to Yeshua in Matthew 22, all of the Law flows from two commandments. “One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” “This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

The Ten Commandments were given two times on tablets to Moses at Horeb, and in them we find the guideposts upon which all the Law, Psalms, and the prophets hinge. These guideposts lead us to Messiah, and our birth into the spiritual family of “one new man.” Through the foundation of His eternal Word and His written Law upon our hearts, our consciences are renewed day by day - as **true Jews of the Spirit through the law of faith**.